

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01

SAB-01 /116 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PM*:MVORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA/* - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 129258

R 251406Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 24,
1976:

Q. WHILE WE ARE AT STORIES AND DENIALS OF SAME, THERE IS
A STORY CIRCULATING TODAY -- AND IT IS FRONT PAGE IN
ISRAEL -- SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PLANNING TO
SELL EGYPT ENGINES, PHANTOM JET ENGINES, THAT THEY CAN USE
IN THE MIG'S THAT THE SOVIETS REFUSED TO BRING UP TO DATE.

PUTTING ASIDE PLANES, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE EGYPTIANS OR WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT
SUPPLYING AMERICAN JET ENGINES TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I CAN CATEGORICALLY DENY THE REPORT THAT A PROPOSAL
EXISTS WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SELL THE ENGINES TO
THE EGYPTIANS. A PROPOSAL LIKE THAT HAS NOT EVEN BEEN
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CONSIDERED IN THE ADMINISTRATION, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE,
OR ON WHAT, THE REPORTS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS ARE BASED.

Q. THE ISRAELI PRESS SAID THE ADMINISTRATION TURNED DOWN
(SIC). AND YOU ARE SAYING IT WAS NOT EVEN CONSIDERED.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW IF THERE IS AN ANTICIPATED OR
A PROPOSED SALE OF BRITISH ENGINES TO THE EGYPTIANS?
I KNOW IT IS SORT OF OUT OF THE BALL PARK, BUT --

A. I DO NOT HAPPEN TO KNOW.

Q. MR. TRATTNER, AT THE PENTAGON, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID ROUGHLY THE SAME THING ABOUT THE JET
ENGINES, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER WHETHER THE EGYPTIANS
HAD EVER ASKED TO BUY ENGINES FROM US. CAN YOU?

A. I CANNOT GO BEYOND WHAT I SAID. I THINK WE HAVE SAID
THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NEVER COME IN WITH A FORMAL SHOPPING
LIST. BUT I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY EVER ASKED FOR THIS,
NO.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING NEW IN THE ISRAELI REQUEST THAT YOU
GET IN TOUCH WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES?

A. NO, NOTHING BEYOND WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

KISSINGER

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